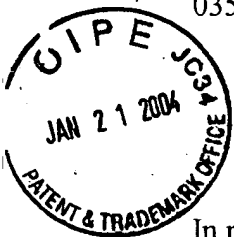


03500.017655

PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Masaki OJIMA, et al.) Examiner: Unassigned
Application No.: 10/691,504) Group Art Unit: Unassigned
Filed: October 24, 2003)
For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS) January 21, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the patent documents listed on the enclosed citation Form PTO-1449. A copy of each of the non-English patent documents along with corresponding English Abstracts are also enclosed.

The Examiner's attention is also directed to the following U.S. Applications

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>FILING DATE</u>	<u>GROUP ART UNIT</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>APPLICANT</u>
10/664,896	09/22/2003	Unassigned	Pending	Kinoshita, et al.

STATEMENT/PETITION/FEE

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), since a first Official Action has not been received in the above-identified application, neither a Statement, Petition, nor payment of a fee is required for this Information Disclosure Statement. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee, which may be deemed necessary in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate of this Information Disclosure Statement is enclosed for that purpose.

REMARKS

Japanese Patent Document No. 63-149669 is discussed at least at page 4, lines 12 through 25 of the specification. U.S. Patent No. 4,851,960 and U.S. Reissue Patent No. RE 35581 are identified as being in the family of Japanese Patent Document No. 63-149669.

Japanese Patent Document No. 8-137368 is discussed at least at page 6, lines 18 through 24 of the specification.

U.S. Patent No. 6,421,512 B2 is discussed at least at page 8, line 9 through page 9, line 5 of the specification.

Japanese Patent Document No. 2001-215799 is discussed at least at page 10, line 7 through page 11, line 2 of the specification.

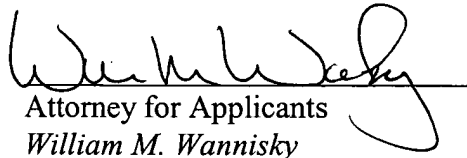
CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the cited information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Favorable consideration hereof is earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the address given below.

Respectfully submitted,


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FORM PTO 1449 (modified)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Submitted to the PTO: January 21, 2004



ATTY DOCKET NO.

03500.017655

APPLICATION NO.

10/691,504

APPLICANT

Masaki OJIMA, et al.

FILING DATE

October 24, 2003

GROUP

Unassigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	4,851,960	07/25/89	Nakamura, et al.	361	225	
	RE 35,581	08/12/97	Nakamura, et al.	361	225	
	6,421,512 B2	07/16/02	Watanabe, et al.	399	149	
	2003/0077088 A1	04/24/03	Adachi, et al.	399	129	10/11/02
	6,640,063 B2	10/28/03	Adachi, et al.	399	50	12/17/01

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
63-149669	06/22/88	Japan			Abstract
8-137368	05/31/96	Japan			Abstract
2001-215799	08/10/01	Japan			Abstract

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Sheet 1 of 1